

DURHAM CULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau

Wednesday, June 18, 2014, 3:15pm.

Members Present:

☒ Zoila Airall
☒ Daniel Ellison
☒ Sherry DeVries
☐ Pamela Green
☒ Mark Hough
☒ Medina Johnson
☒ Frank Konhaus
☒ Renee Leverty
☒ Ashley Mattheis
☒ Cynthia Mebane-Watts
☒ Chris Ogden
☒ Lou Rollins

OEWD Staff Present:

☐ Grace Dzidzienyo
☒ Peter Coyle

Also present:

Chair Renee Leverty called the meeting to order at 3:17pm.

Dan Ellison moved to approve the April 16, 2014 Board meeting minutes. Sherry DeVries seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Renee Leverty moved to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2014 joint meeting of the Board and the Public Art Committee. Dan Ellison seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Leverty presented the applications of eight individuals who have applied for appointment to the six positions on the Board for terms ending June 30, 2016. The Board discussed the applications. Peter Coyle advised the Board that it has the right, but not the obligation, to make recommendations to the City Council concerning who the Council will appoint. Appointments will be made at the Council's August 4 meeting.

The Board members agreed to authorize Leverty to inform the City Council that the Board recommends the reappointment of Frank Konhaus and Cynthia Mebane-Watts and recommends the appointments of Margaret DeMott, Dorothy C. Browne, Tess Mangum Ocana and Charlene Reiss as new members.

Sherry DeVries updated the Board on the SmART Grant process. She reported that the Request for Qualifications for a visioning consulting team led to 32 applications being received. They have gone through a review process by a selection review panel which has narrowed the choice to three teams. The applicants will be invited for interviews to be held on July 22. The SmART Grant executive Committee, the selection review panel will conduct the interviews with the full membership of the SmART Grant partners invited to observe. She indicated that the Cultural Advisory Board can also be invited. The assignment for the artist/design team selected will be to create a vision plan for a proposed arts/entertainment district along the Blackwell/Corcoran/Foster Street corridor, incorporating public art, a district design theme, pedestrian amenities, wayfinding, design lighting and other enhancements to build connectivity and maximum arts-driven economic impact along the corridor.

Mark Hough reported that the advisory committee for Liberty Arts selection of the purchase prize from the Bull City Sculpture Show has recommended the purchase by Liberty arts and donation to the City of Winding Out, by Robert Winkler. A subcommittee of the Public Art Committee along with representatives of City/County Planning and the City's General Services Department reviewed the piece and has identified potential locations for it. They recommended that Liberty Arts accept the advisory committee's recommendation.

Chris Ogden suggested that the Board look at the Angier/Driver intersection streetscape project as a possible location for the piece or a future piece.

Frank Konhaus reported that he attended the Alliance for Artist Communities conference. It was reported at the conference that the National Endowment for the Arts offers grants to artist communities. He suggested that the Board look for a Durham-based artist residency under the NEA grant program.

Coyle reported that the Office of Economic and Workforce Development is examining its budget for the fiscal year that ends June 30, to see if funds might be available for the City to purchase a second piece from the Bull City Sculpture Show. It is unlikely that funds will be available, but if so Coyle will convene the PAC and Board in the next two weeks to review possibilities. DeVries suggested that OEWD look at the Bull City Connector bus shelter project as an alternative to purchasing a work from the Bull City Sculpture Show. Coyle will pass that idea along to his office.

Mark Hough reported that Brenda Miller Holmes presented the final design of the Civil Rights Mural to the PAC. He also reported that her kickstarter campaign for funding was successful.

Mebane-Watts reported that the Festivals Committee has not met in a while because of member's schedule issues but will be meeting again soon. She reported that a test mailing of a survey to festival sponsors has been done. The committee hopes to send out the full survey in July.

DeVries reported that the Funding Committee will meet on June 24 at 4:00pm at the Durham Arts Council.

Leverly reported that DCVB would like to highlight public art in Durham, showcasing eight to ten pieces on its web site. They have requested that the CAB identify the works to be highlighted and provide photos and short descriptions of fifty to one hundred words each. Ogden indicated that he would be willing to take the photographs. Hough will contact PAC members but suggested that the suggested deadline set by DCVB may be too tight. Cynthia Mebane-Watts will see if more time can be available.

Zoila Airall reported that a meeting of the committee to look at cooperation between the arts and business communities will be meeting soon, but a date has not yet been set.

Ogden reported on his attendance of the DPAC Oversight Committee. The DPAC manager, Bob Klaus, had previewed DPAC's annual report to the City Council. They are doing very well financially. The new hotel next to Diamond View, will also add women's restroom facilities to the DPAC and the hotel will include a new VIP lounge for the theater. There will be an annual open house in July to allow community members to see the locations of seats not sold as season tickets. There are discussions of renaming Vivian Street, in from of the theater and of developing it as a Durham "walk of fame".

Ogden reported that he is a member of the Duke/Durham Committee, set up by Duke University. He has been tasked with developing a list of resources Duke could provide that would best serve the arts in Durham. To date he has met with 27 community members associated with a number of arts and civic groups. He encouraged the Board members to suggest others he should meet with. He reported that Duke's focus is on buying real estate and programming it, but that resource sharing and other activities are possible.

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 16, 3:15 pm at DCVB.